

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DJIBOUTI 001186

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR ISA AFRICA DAS THERESA WHELAN;  
DEFENSE ALSO FOR DSCA EUROPE, RUSSIA, AMERICAS AND  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DIRECTOR JEANNE FARMER; DSCA ALSO FOR  
JIM MINER; STATE FOR AF/DAS DON YAMAMOTO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/09/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [MARR](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI'S RESPONSE ON STATUS OF FMF

REF: A. DJIBOUTI 1038

[B](#). SECDEF MSG 222015Z JUL 04

[C](#). DJIBOUTI 985

[D](#). DJIBOUTI 239

Classified By: AMBASSADOR MARGUERITA D. RAGSDALE.  
REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

[1](#). (U) Following Ambassador's July 28 briefing to Major General of the Armed Forces, Col. Osman Sobaghleh, on status of FMF cases for Djibouti as outlined in reftel (B), Ambassador received a written reply August 4 from General Fathi Ahmed Houssein, General of Djibouti's Armed Forces. Embassy translation of the text of the reply follows at para [2](#).

[2](#). (U) Begin text:

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August 4, 2004

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Her Excellency Mme. Ambassador of the United States in Djibouti

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Subject: Foreign Military Financing (FMF)  
Ref: Your unnumbered letter, 29 July 2004

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I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 29 July 2004 regarding the FMF intended for the Djiboutian Armed Forces.

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I thank you especially for the good presentation of this program and its updating. I am convinced that such an approach goes in the direction of reinforcing the already profitable relations between our two countries.

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However, I regret to note that the delay in putting into place of the funds and that by consequence, the materials have not yet arrived at their destination. We feel a major concern about these excessive delays in delivery of these materials.

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Referring to the state of the program that you submitted to me, permit me to transmit to you, in return, the necessary observations that I have found:

- The heavy engineering equipment for road construction is pending for a year and a half now.

- Training with members of CJTF-HOA is proceeding slowly.

- In June, the Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles were requested to be replaced with Land Rovers.

- Regarding parts and equipment for vehicles, the letters of acceptance DJ-B-BAL and DJ-B-BAM have already been signed and were sent in July, 2004.

- The air radar system was proposed in the summer for common use with U.S. forces in Djibouti and we wish to carry out this program with MARCENT (sic) Command in Bahrain. (Embassy comment: General Fathi seems to be confusing two separate potential projects. In recent conversations with USLO Chief, General Fathi expressed a desire to develop joint programs for both air field radar at Camp Lemonier/Ambouli Airfield and coastal radar. Fathi was told that such programs would likely have to be coordinated through MARCENT (for airfield radar) and NAVCENT (i.e. Bahrain) for coastal radar. End comment)

- For the five fast high-speed motorboats and patrol craft, a delegation has already been assigned for the project. We are still waiting for an answer.

- For the Obock Naval Base, the commission arrived in July and began its study, and we would like that the work begin quickly.

- Regarding Hummer vehicles, we note that the delivery period of 24 months is too long and we are in dire need of them for territorial security.

- The renovation of the frontier border stations has been the subject of a recent study to evaluate the work needed and we wish that this begin rather quickly.

- The reconnaissance helicopters are on continuing on standby.

However, as you have well underscored, the global war on terrorism is growing day by day and always with new facets.

Security of maritime coasts and land borders are of cardinal importance, and the mixed patrols between our two forces began some time ago.

This is why I have the honor to ask you to intervene with the appropriate authorities, as you have done before, in order that the process of funding and acquisition be accelerated so that our units are able to ensure their mission to protect and secure host forces present within the territory, within the framework of the global war on terrorism.

Our common concern today remains the security of host forces, and my responsibility as General of the Army pushes me to personally ask you that these materials get to us rather quickly, as it is the crux of the mission to which we are dedicated.

Best regards,  
General Fathi Ahmed Houssein

Copy to: Military Office at the Presidency

End text.

13. (C) Comment: Ambassador appreciates reassurances given during her recent consultations at DSCA and DOD. She continues to urge that processing and delivery of FMF materiel to Djibouti be expedited as much as possible. With a new implementing arrangement in the process of negotiation by DOD for the U.S. military presence in Djibouti, it will behoove us, for purposes of leverage, to be as responsive as we can to the requests Djibouti has put forward. End comment.  
RAGSDALE